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State of New Hampshire

In the House of Representatives Jenry 16th. 1782

The committee to take into consideration sundry papers relative to the pretended State of Vermont and the requisition of Congres respecting this States proportion of the eight millions of dollars called for by the United States — Also of a quantity of the old continental currency now in the Treasury of this State and to prepare a letter to be sent to Congress on these several subjects, Reported, as their opinion that the President be desired to prepare and forward a suitable letter ~~for~~ as soon as he conveniently can representing the several matters above mentioned in the fullest manner, especially respecting the mode proportion assigned this State of the said eight Millions dollars & to forward such other papers as he may think necessary — Which is submitted, Signed J. Bartlett for Committee

Which report being read & considered Voted, That it be received & accepted

Sent up for concurrence.

John Dudly Speaker

In Council the same day read & Concurred

Joseph Pearson D. Secty.

237:197

Philadelphia 26th March 1782

Dear Sir,

I have recd your favour of the 12th instant informing me that Vermont had receded from their late encroachments. I had heard this frequently by common report, but there is no official account of it in Congress. The com^tee upon your letter about the 6 Million Dollars & quota of 8 Million have made a report plumply against us — I have got a day assigned for debate which is next Monday. As I suppose we shall hear from Vermont in a manner that will end that tedious business. I hope to see you in May.

There is no news from Charlestown since my last. Gen^l Washington is gone to North River

I have the honour to be your most obedient servant

Samuel Livermore

Hon^ble Mesheck Weare

237:198

Philadelphia 26th March 1782

Dear Sir,

I am this moment desired to send you the enclosed which will speak for itself. My letters being sealed & sent to the Office

your most obed't Servt
Sam'e Lawrence

Hon Pres't Weare

237:199

In pursuance of Votes passed and instructions given by the Towns of Newbury, Moretown, Norwich and Hartford lying on the New Hampshire Grants so called west of Connecticut River proposing to take some measures to be informed of the Honorable Genl Court of New Hampshire whether a Union of the Territory aforesaid can be effected with the State of N Hampshire in consequence of their claim over the same, on terms honorable and mutually beneficial — and appointing committees from those several towns to meet at Thetford in order further to consult on the subject and gain information therein in such a way and manner as may appear most advisable —

The said Committee being convened in consequence of the votes and instructions aforesaid — after mature deliberation came to the following resolution —

Resolved, That it evidently appears to be the wish and desire of the inhabitants of the towns above named as by their said votes and instructions is expressed — and also by good information it appears to be the desire of several other towns who have not had opportunity to be represented at this time, that the Territory aforesaid or part thereof should be united with the State of New Hampshire & be under its jurisdiction — provided it can be done on terms that may be

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honorable and mutually advantageous — And that we therefore think it our duty to enquire of the said General Court of N. Hampshire whether agreeable to their claim aforesaid — the territory or Grants aforementioned or part thereof may on such terms be united with & become a part of that State — And that we imagine such an union might be formed to the general benefit, well being and interest of the whole.

Resolved, That if the Hon. Gen. Court of N. Hampshire are disposed or desirous to extend jurisdiction over the territory aforesaid or a part thereof — they be earnestly requested to signify their disposition therefor to the several towns in their said claim as soon as conveniently may be — and also manifest their ideas respecting judicial and other proceedings under the authority of Vermont — cases now pending in Courts &c and if a reasonable adjustment of these last mentioned and other necessary matters can be take place — we have full reason to believe and assert that the greater part of the inhabitants of in said territory would readily acknowledge the authority of N. Hampshire — expecting doubtless at the same time that some assistance will be afforded in guarding the frontiers

And whereas a negotiation or correspondence

has been evidently — and from many circumstances we suspect is still carrying on by persons in high office in Vermont with the British Officers and Government — greatly prejudicial to the cause of America and destructive of the future welfare of this Country — whereby there is the utmost reason to fear and believe that many persons who are disposed and doubtless do harbour and give intelligence to our enemies — cannot be brot to public justice under our present situation — and other accumulated evils consequential thereto cannot now be remedied.

Therefore Resolved, That the Court of N. Hampshire be requested to order a number of Troops to the defence of the frontiers — it being from many circumstances apparent that unless relief and assistance be speedily afforded from some quarter, the situation of these frontiers will be truly deplorable —

Resolved, That the following Memorial be transmitted to and laid before the Hon. Genl. Court of N. Hampshire together with these resolutions — And that Abel Curtis Esquire be appointed Agent to wait on that Hon. Court with the same — and that said Agent be desired and empowered to make or receive such further proposels agreeably to the tenor hereof as may then be

judged beneficial and expedient ←

237:200

To the Honorable General Court of New Hampshire to be convened at Concord in and for said State on the second Tuesday in June next. The Committee aforesaid in the name and behalf of the Towns above named beg leave to represent

That the Grantees and occupants of the greater part of the lands in the territory aforesaid were possessed of titles from the Governor of New Hampshire and in Expectation of having continued under the jurisdiction of that Government

That the people in said territory were very unexpectedly and disagreeably involved in difficulties and calamities by being annexed to New York by the royal edict in the year 1764- out of which they were desirous & endeavoured to extricate themselves - but without succes until after the memorable American Revolution, when for their mutual benefit and protection against the efforts of ~~ex~~ internal and external foes, they were impelled by necessity to form into a seperate jurisdiction

That necessity and necessity only induced the inhabitants of the Towns above mentioned and many others to unite and continue under the new Government - being unjustly deprived of that jurisdiction and protection from N. Hampshire which they had a right to expect and enjoy. And

And while they have esteemed the Congress of the United States to be the guardians of the rights of a numerous & free people – and have been ready to stand forth in defence and support of the cause of America – they have for a long ~~time~~ while looked to them for a settlement of our unhappy disputes, but hitherto to no purpose.

That while on the one hand we view with keenest anxiety a negociation on foot with the British greatly to the detriment of the public cause and tending to our final ruin without a speedy remedy – which we are not at present in a capacity to obtain or afford – on the other hand we may view our rights violated in the most flagrant manner and our liberties trampled upon by a number without rebuke or remorse – And therefore unless a number of men be raised or afforded for the defence of these frontiers – we must view their situation to be indeed very distressed and unhappy

That although we would not wish to involve ourselves under greater disadvantages to obtain relief from our present troubles – we think it our duty nevertheless to enquire whether the Jurisdiction of New Hampshire may not be as real as its claim) and whether

the Territory aforesaid may not be speedily united with & become a part of that State on such principles as may be honorable, mutually beneficial & advantageous to the whole - being persuaded that the said Territory on account of its fertility &c may greatly add to the wealth and recources of New Hampshire

The Committee aforesaid therefore beg that your Honors would take the several matters herein before suggested into your wise consideration and rest assured you will persue such measures thereupon as will eventually prove for the best good of New Hampshire and the Territory aforesaid - whose interest ought doubtless to be inseperable.

Signed by order and in behalf of the Committee aforesaid - this thirty first day of May in the year of our Lord seventeen hundred and eighty two and in the sixth year of American Independence

Bildad Andros Chairman

To the Honble Committee of Safety for the State of New Hampshire

Gentlemen,

It is with great concern we behold the spirit of opposition to the Authority & measures of this State, advancing with horrid strides, within this County, which is apparent from the conversation and conduct of too many in every Town. The friends of Great Britain have taken unwearied pains to seduce the common people from their allegiance and herein have been too successfull; and it is morally impossible to convince the people of their dangers. The idea of the tyranny of New Hampshire is immorably fixed. The General Assembly, the compilers of the Constitution and the Executive Authority, have combined together to enslave the people, of which they say they are fully apprised, and are resolved to free themselves from the shackles. They are determined to raise no men nor pay any taxes for carrying on the War, this is a burthen they cannot and will not bear, they have raised too much already for the great ones to pocket &c A particular detail of conversation of this kind would fill a volumn, a general one whereof you are not unacquainted with, shall not therefore trouble you with any more of it: We have great reason to think

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that coersive measure must be used in some if not most of the Towns in this County to collect the taxes. We were informed yesterday by two persons from Westmoreland that two thirds of that Town are against paying the tax, and that Capt. Daniel Howe, who hath done much heretofore in the Common cause, now declares openly for the King of Briton and his Government, and that in it is in almost every place there are persons of simelar sentiments. Chesterfield, Richmond, Claremont, Cornish, Plainfield and Croydon pay not taxes - The collector of Beef Cattle hath agreeable to his orders notified the Towns of his appointment, and of the time and places of his and his Deputies attending to receive Cattle. Some Towns here nearly completed their first payment, and why those abovementioned, which, most of them, are wealthier have done nothing cannot be conceived, unless upon the foregoing principles of not paying any taxes at all -

Upon the whole, we think from the temper and disposition of too many of the People in this part of the State, troublous times are approaching; which may Heaven avert & you, and all who are entrusted with our publick concerns be directed in the way

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A question arises amongst the people who are willing to pay their taxes whether Beef shall be received at three pence per pound for the first payment of the taxes? Upon which the Collector and many others would be glad of your opinion; some people also are desirous that the Collector may be empowered to exchange Cattle which are returned to him (whereof many are not fit to kill) for those which are; and it appears to us, that such a method in many instances, might be beneficial to individuals and not injurious to the State, but this is submitted to your better judgement—

We have seen a letter signed by His Excellency Mesheck Weare Esqr to Mr Jennison wherein Jennison is at least impeached of mal-conduct in his Office of Collector of Beef Cattle —

Mr Jennisons integrity and uprightness was never called in question, and we are humbly of the opinion ought not now, we believe, that in his late appointment he hath (as he always did upon all occasions heretofore) exerted himself for the best interest of this and the United States—

He and His Deputies may have given receipts for Cattle dated a day or two later than the Fifteenth of July, yet not with a view of helping himself or his friend or injuring the State, but because he could not accomplish the business of appraising, receipting &c upon

the very day pointed out in his orders. the Snow he hath turned away Cattle to the great displeasure of those who offerd them, and we are not in the least apprehensive that he will in the smallest degree swerve from the intent and meaning of his instructions & orders which he shall from time to time receive. — Wishing you, this State & the United States prosperity, and freedom from populer tyranny and oppression We subscribe ourselves your obedient Humble Servants

Walpole July 30th 1782

Thos Sparhawk

Benja Bellows